

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 020830Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4882

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L AR ES SALAAM 0671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRN TZ MI

SUBJ: MALAWI DELEGATION ENDS SUCCESSFUL WEEK'S VISIT

REF: DAR 569 AND 546 (NOTALS)

1. SUMMARY. VISIT BY FIVE-MAN MALAWI DELEGATION DURING PAST WEEK HIGHLIGHTS PRAGMATIC DECISION BY PRESIDENT NYERERE TO TRY TO FIND AREAS OF AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR. IN THIS REGARD, PROGRESS MADE IN IMPROVING TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND IN ESTABLISHING MEANS TO SETTLE BORDER PROBLEMS. TANZANIANS ALSO HAD SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR MALAWI ON HOW DEAL WITH FRELIMO. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NYERERE HAS DECIDED TANZANIA MUST DEVELOP MORE PRAGMATIC POLICY IN RELATIONS WITH MALAWI, PAUL RUPIA, DIRECTOR, AFRICA DIVISION, FONMIN, TOLD DCM MARCH
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2. WHILE DISAGREEING WITH MALAWI POLICY TOWARDS MINORITY

REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TANZANIA SHOULD APPRECIATE MALAWI'S ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES AND SHOULD SEEK COOPERATION WITH MALAWI IN OTHER AREAS. MWALIMU FRANKLY EXPRESSED THESE VIEWS, RUPIA SAID, TO MEMBERS OF FIVE-MAN MALAWI DELEGATION WHEN THEY CALLED ON HIM DURING THEIR VISIT THIS WEEK (REFTELS).

3. THOUGH MALAWI DELEGATION VISIT BILLED AS "GOODWILL", IN FACT NUMEROUS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DISCUSSED, AS FOLLOWS:

4. MAIZE: TANZANIA IS INTERESTED IN IMPORTING ADDITIONAL MAIZE FROM MALAWI TO HELP OVERCOME ITS OWN SHORTAGES. MALAWI PREPARED TO COOPERATE. PRICE WILL BE HIGHER THAN LOCALLY GROWN MAIZE, BUT CHEAPER THAN FROM SOME OTHER SOURCES. HOWEVER, TANGOV WILL STILL HAVE TO SUBSIDIZE PRICE TO CONSUMERS.

5. ALTERNATE TRADE ROUTES: AS MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT (FRELIMO) INCREASINGLY INTERDICTS BEIRA RAIL LINE, MALAWI WILL NEED ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION ROUTES FOR ITS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS. TANZANIAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT MALAWI CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO BEIRA ROUTE AVAILABLE IN TANZANIA. MTWARA PORT IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA CAN HANDLE MORE SHIPS AND CARGO. TANZANIA HAS ALMOST COMPLETED ALL-WEATHER ROAD FROM MTWARA TO LAKE NYASA. THEREFORE, MALAWI MAY WISH CONSIDER USING THIS ROUTE. SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS TO CHANNEL MALAWI EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM MALAWI TO NORTHERN END OF LAKE WHERE GOODS CAN BE TRANSFERRED EITHER TO TAZARA RAILWAY OR TO TRUCKS USING TANZAM HIGHWAY. MALAWI DELEGATION AGREED TO STUDY THESE PROPOSALS BY PERSONALLY INSPECTING THESE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES ON GROUND.

6. BORDER TALKS: MBEYA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN TALKING WITH MALAWI COUNTERPARTS RECENT WEEKS IN EFFORT RESOLVE VARIETY OF BORDER PROBLEMS. CITIZENS BOTH COUNTRIES ON OCCASION DESIRE TO BUY GOODS IN ONE ANOTHER'S COUNTRY. TO ENCOURAGE THIS LOCAL TRADE, MINFINANCE MSUYA HAS AGREED ESTABLISH BRANCH OF NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE TO FACILITATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS. MAIN RIVER
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BED OF SONGWEA RIVER, WHICH IS BORDER BETWEEN MALAWI AND TANZANIA, PERIODICALLY SHIFTS. WHEN THIS OCCURS PEOPLE IN MALAWI SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES IN TANZANIA, OR VICE VERSA, WITH ALL ATTENDANT PROBLEMS. TANZANIA AND MALAWI HAVE AGREED TO SET UP BORDER COMMISSION TO STUDY AND TO TRY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS RAISED BY PEREGRINATIONS OF SONGWEA RIVER.

7. FRELIMO: TANZANIANS POINTED OUT TO MALAWIANS THAT ZAMBIA TRIES TO WORK WITH LEADERSHIP LIBERATION FRONT ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN ANGOLA SO THAT ZAMBIA'S VITAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, ARE PROTECTED. MALAWI MAY WISH, IN TANZANIAN VIEW, TO WORK OUT SIMILAR MODUS OPERANDIUS WITH FRELIMO LEADERSHIP. MALAWI DELEGATION SAID IT WOULD REVIEW THIS SUGGESTION WITH PRESIDENT BANDA.

8. RUPIA CONCLUDED BY COMMENTING DELEGATION VISIT HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND HAD MOVED TANZANIA-MALAWI RELATIONS TO POINT WHERE AT NEXT MEETING SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN. BALL IS NOW IN MALAWI COURT.

9. COMMENT: ONE ASPECT THAT INTRIGUES US IN THESE TALKS IS THAT THERE IS AN APPARENT GROWING PRAGMATISM TOWARD FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROBLEMS AT STATE HOUSE.
CARTER

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